

a2 is inconvenient for the recipient. Moreover, some stores have sought to prevent this practice by implementing restrictive return policies.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-194, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims 195-211:

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--195. A method for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the method comprising:

- receiving at a centralized gift registry computer system gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient;
- storing the gift ideas in a memory which is part of, or accessible to, said gift registry computer system;
- providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied to said gift registry computer, an on-line display of the gift ideas;
- receiving at said gift registry computer system commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward the purchase of a gift selected from the on-line display of gift ideas;
- combining the commitments for monetary contributions and updating the display of the gift ideas to reflect the current commitments toward the selected gift;

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automatically generating a purchase request for the selected gift if the total of the commitments is equal to or greater than the gift's purchase price; and attempting to satisfy the purchase request, wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift's purchase price.

196. The method according to claim 195, wherein the commitment of each giver that commits to make a monetary contribution is directly specified by the gift giver as an amount of money.

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197. The method according to claim 195, wherein the providing of an on-line display of the gift ideas comprises:

generating one or more web pages based on the gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient; and

supplying the generated web pages to the gift givers in response to giver-supplied requests.

198. The method according to claim 195, wherein attempting to satisfy the purchase request comprises:

sending the purchase request to a supplier.

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199. The method according to claim 195, wherein attempting to satisfy the purchase request comprises:

- sending an offer to purchase the selected gift to a plurality of vendors;
- receiving an acceptance of the offer from one of the vendors; and
- requesting that the accepting vendor send the selected gift to the gift recipient.

200. The method according to claim 195, wherein attempting to satisfy the purchase request comprises:

- adding the purchase request for the selected gift to a gift list of gifts to be purchased;
- aggregating purchase requests for identical gifts into a single purchase order;
- sending an offer to purchase the gifts in the purchase order to a plurality of vendors;
- receiving an acceptance of the offer from one of the vendors; and
- requesting that the accepting vendor send the gifts in the purchase order to the appropriate gift recipients.

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201. The method according to claim 195, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

- receiving credit card information supplied by the gift givers that make commitments.

202. The method according to claim 195, wherein the receiving of commitments from the gift givers comprises:

receiving commitments from the gift givers that include commitments which are contingent upon other gift givers making commitments such that the total of all commitments is equal to or greater than the price of the selected gift.

203. The method according to claim 195, wherein the receiving of gift ideas from a gift recipient comprises receiving gift ideas that specify a substitution option.

ad 204. The method according to claim 195, further comprising: providing the commitments for monetary contributions to the gift recipient as cash if the total of the commitments is less than the gift's purchase price.

205. The method according to claim 195, wherein one or more of the gift ideas specified by the gift recipient is associated with a recipient-determined price for the gift idea.

206. The method according to claim 195, wherein one or more of the gift ideas specified by the gift recipient is associated with a recipient-determined vendor for the gift idea.

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207. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 195.

208. A computer programmed to perform the method of claim 195.

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209. A gift registry computer system configured to enable a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient, the computer system comprising:

a communications circuit for connecting to a communications network;

a processor; and

a memory containing instructions executable by said processor to perform the steps of:

receiving gift ideas supplied by the gift recipient via said communications network;

storing the gift ideas in said memory or in another memory accessible to said gift registry computer system;

providing to the gift givers, based on the stored gift ideas and in response to requests supplied via said communications network, an on-line display of the gift ideas;

receiving, via said communications network, commitments from the gift givers for monetary contributions toward the purchase of a gift selected from the display of gift ideas;

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